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MAIN BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OF-
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Financial Madness.

Lord Rothermere writes his country-
men that Great Britain, like the
rest of Europe, is afflicted with finan-
cial dementia. So is this country.

It is financial madness for the
United States Government to be spend-
ing money—spending it seventeen
months after the war—at the rate of more
than seven billions of dollars a year.

It is financial madness for the
United States Government to be piling
up a deficit at the rate of between
three and four billions of dollars a year.

It is financial madness for the
United States Government, when it is
pouring three-quarters of a billion of
dollars into railroad losses, nearly
half a billion of dollars into Shipping
Board expenditures, and two-thirds
of a billion of dollars into interest on
the public debt, to propose to pile on
top of such prodigious outlays and
deficits billions more of indiscriminate
bonuses and distributions and other drains
of the national treasury.

It is financial madness for Ameri-
can industries, when they are facing
interminable taxes of stupendous vol-
ume, when men will not work and
capital will not flow, to be borrowing
billions of dollars to put into new
construction, reconstruction, exten-
sions and improvements at prohibi-
tively high rates of interest, prohibitive
costs of materials, prohibitive costs of
labor.

It is financial madness for the
American people, when they are fac-
ing like taxes, facing interminable
living costs, facing a desperate struggle
to make both ends meet, to be spend-
ing money like men delirious on all
sorts of non-essentials, pleasure, in-
dulgence and follies.

When the only way to decrease
prices of commodities is to increase
production and the only way to have
money enough to do the nation's
legitimate work is to stop prodigal
waste it is financial madness and it
is economic madness for hundreds of
thousands of workers to be inces-
santly off their jobs on strike but for
all the public to go on spending none
the less wildly.

The United States Government
must check its mad spending and pay
up its billions of I O U's. The
American people must cut off every
penny of waste that can be trimmed
from their careless, reckless spend-
ings and get down to hard work. If
the United States Government and the
American people both together, with
all the riches nature has bestowed
upon this country, with all the opul-
ence there is for its sons to gain by
energy, industry and thrift, we shall
go careening through financial squan-
der and economic profligacy into dis-
aster as terrific and lasting as fell
upon Europe through war's carnage
and destruction.

Alien Lunatics in the United States.

The man who murdered Dr. JAMES
W. MARRON in St. George's Church
on Sunday is a lunatic alien who
should not have been admitted into
this country, or, having got in, should
have been deported.

He has been an inmate of two
State asylums—one in Minnesota and
one in Virginia—and escaped from each
of them.

The circumstances of his arrival,
admittance and continued tolerance
in this country should be investi-
gated immediately, and with the facts
brought out in this investigation as
guides an intelligent and practicable
policy for the protection of the coun-
try from such aliens should be
adopted.

This is not a new subject, and the
fact that there are in the United
States murderous maniacs of native
birth does not establish a reason for
official carelessness in the treatment
of madmen from abroad.

For years the State of New York
has complained frequently and justly
that the Federal Government, which
controls the admission of immigrants,
is lax in its administration of the law
and tardy in the deportation of in-
sane aliens whom it has admitted.
Such aliens form a considerable and
burdensome portion of the inmates of

the New York State public institu-
tions. Similar conditions exist in
other States.

Let it not be said that the war
with its dislocation of transportation
facilities is responsible for the situa-
tion we describe. This is not the
truth. The evil was notorious before
war began in Europe. It existed
when the transatlantic steamships
sailed regularly and often with their
passenger quarters well filled.

If this one lunatic—a lunatic whose
mental condition was known to the
authorities of two States and who
may have been, as he should have
been, reported to the authorities at
Washington for deportation when his
wife was returned to their home
abroad as a dependent alien—had been
sent to England for his own people
to care for him this city and suffer-
ing humanity would still have Dr.
JAMES W. MARRON to labor for them
as he had labored for many years.

The White Collar Boy and the Painter

When the white collar boy has dug
coal and stoked locomotives, has
made a first class job of it and has
sent outworn strikers back to work,
consider the white collar boy and the
painter or the glazier.

In the great city when an apart-
ment house is all but ready to give
shelter to scores of families dis-
tracted because they can't find roofs
under which to put their heads the
organized painter holds up the deliv-
ery of the houses because he won't
paint them. The glazier holds up the
delivery of the houses because he
won't put in the window glass.

But anybody can put in a pane of
glass. Anybody can paint. Anybody
can do an ordinary job of painting
whether it is a door or a sash or a
wall or a whole house. On the farm
a boy does it. He does it well enough
to keep out the rains and snows of
tempestuous climates and seasons. He
does it well enough to preserve the
woodwork for generations against
blistering suns of summer and savage
blasts of winter.

When the glazier and the painter
want to keep the public from getting
a permanent roof over its head let
the white collar boy do the job for
himself and for the public—and he'll
do it better than the average organized
painter and glazier tries to do it or
thinks of trying to do it.

The Red Robber Baron Caught.

An official Czech despatch to Per-
lin announces the capture of Max
Hörs, the so-called "Red Robber
Baron," at Marienbad, Bohemia. After
a varied career as Communist
leader and bandit chief, a career
marked with acts of plunder, inec-
dentism and the exaction of tributes
from the industrial centers of eastern
Saxony, Hörs decided the field was
too limited and he set out to extend
his operations to Czechoslovakia. He
had scarcely crossed the Bohemian
frontier when he was seized by the
Czech soldiers and imprisoned at
Eger, near Carlsbad.

Hörs came naturally by his title;
he attempted to apply to the ancient
principles of red radicalism. The fact
that he had seized the old Falken-
stein castle as the seat of his Com-
munist government and the rallying
point for his followers seemed to
make the title of robber baron pecu-
liarly appropriate. The Falken-
stein were notorious even among the
early German nobility for their excec-
utive original Saxon castle of the
family, according to tradition, was
destroyed by neighbors who had long
suffered from their robberies, while
the castle of the southern family was
torn down by the people of Freiburg
after the Falkensteins had preyed for
more than a half century upon pil-
grims and travelling merchants.

Hörs managed to gather a force
of about 5,000 men, many of them re-
turned soldiers more or less under the
influence of the Bolshevik propa-
ganda. He made his first dash into
the smaller towns of eastern Saxony.
He put a price upon each of them and
swelled the ranks of his army by
burning the houses and destroying the
property of all who refused to join his
movement. His greatest exploit was
the demand of a tribute of 100,000
marks weekly from Plauen, the prin-
cipal manufacturing town of the re-
gion. He got his first instalment by
locking up all the principal men of
the place and putting the town itself
under guard of his troops.

After this feat Hörs started for
Czechoslovakia; he had most of the
ready cash in the Vogtland industrial
district, and he sought, as he said,
new conquests. He might have reached
Bohemia in safety, but the same fate
befell him in getting out of Saxony
that overtook Bela Kun in leaving
Hungary. He had the treasure chest
of the organization in his automo-
bile, and those who had rushed to
his support would not permit him to
desert them. They followed him to
the frontier and his capture by the
Czech soldiers was thus an easy mat-
ter to accomplish.

Mankind Cannot Live by Theft Alone.

Despite the widespread popularity
of a contrary notion, mankind cannot
live by theft alone.

A man may for a time enjoy appar-
ent prosperity as the result of rob-
bing his neighbors of all they pro-
duce, but if his depredations are not
checked his neighbors will eventually
cease to produce anything worth steal-
ing and he will fall into misery.

A band of men may seem for a
while to fatten on robbing their em-
ployer by refusing to give honest ser-
vice and by forcing him to pay ex-
orbitant wages, but in time, com-

plined by high cost of production and
limitation of output to raise his prices
beyond the willingness or the capac-
ity of his potential customers to pay,
the employer will lose his market, his
shop will shut down and his workmen
will find themselves out of jobs.

A people blessed with the possession
of a virgin land may appear fortunate's
favorites while they rob the soil of
its fertility and denude the mountains
of their forests, but nature will re-
venge herself some day by withdrav-
ing her bounty from them, turning
what were rich plains into barren
wastes, transforming gloriously clad
hillsides into scarred deserts.

If man robs nature of one of her
instruments for the maintenance of
her balance of power—a balance of
power not dependent for its effective-
ness on political boundary lines, or
spheres of commercial influence, or
racial unity, or national self-determi-
nation—as man has done in many
cases, such as in his slaughter of in-
sectivorous birds in certain districts,
man must pay the penalty. It has
taken a long time to teach this truth
to a lamentably small fraction of the
human family. It is to be feared that
it will take a long time to teach even
a small fraction of the race that other
forms of robbery are not less surely
punished.

It is comparatively easy for man to
deal through organized society with
the robber who steals another man's
goods. He can be put in the stocks,
or ducked, or imprisoned, or branded,
or killed. Mankind has been inces-
sant in devising methods of dealing
with individual thieves.

It is not impracticable for man to
deal through organized society with
groups of men who conspire to rob
their employers and the public whose
agents those employers are. But no
system of human jurisprudence has
yet presented an effective method of
curbing or punishing a people which
sets out to maintain itself in luxury
through the process of mutual rob-
bery practised under forms of law and
defended in the salons of the ad-
vanced sociology which teaches not
only that the world owes a living to
everybody but that in these later days
it will pay its debt without waiting
for the collector whose name is Hard
Labor to come around.

Nevertheless punishment awaits
every people which attempts to live
by robbery. It will be inflicted auto-
matically, without the intervention of
any man made machinery, by the in-
exorable authority which writes the
natural laws; and when that authority
has uttered its decrees no human leg-
islative body or appellate court can set
them aside or break their potency.

Office Building Rent Laws.

The New York Legislature should
be very careful how it applies rent
laws to office and loft buildings. If
the new legislation regarding tenement,
apartment and private houses has
singled the odious rent profiteer
as he deserved to be singled, unfor-
tunately it also has scotched new con-
struction. Already building plans
about to go into operation are being
abandoned. Even contracts on work
not yet advanced are being cancelled.
Real estate investors who are in may
have to stay in, but investors who are
out want to stay out.

And yet, in spite of the reluctance
of capital to go into new building
operations under existing circumstances,
there is always a chance to get new
homes constructed somehow. Public
spirit may respond to urgent needs.
Local government may lend a hand.
Sentiment may come to the rescue
when all else fails.

But there is no more sentiment about
investing in an office building than
there is about investing in a coal mine
or a bone factory. Either capital sees
a chance to go into an office building
or a loft building on its own terms
or it refuses to be dragged in by a
pair of mules.

There isn't anybody doing business
below Forty-second street who thinks
there are now too many office build-
ings. There isn't any small mer-
chant, lawyer, agent or broker that
knows where to turn for new quar-
ters in which to conduct his business
and earn his living. All this in spite
of the fact that up to now there has
continued to be reasonable activity in
erecting office buildings.

But if Albany legislation puts a
sharp end to the construction of office
and loft buildings, as it has tended to
check the construction of apartment
and tenement houses, it will make
more mischief for business and pro-
fessional men, big and little, in the
city of New York while they hunt in
vain and pray in vain for offices and
stores, than the anti-profiteering laws
ever have made or ever could make
for the benefit of profiteers.

Truth About Soviet Russia.

Whether England, France and other
European nations concur with Ameri-
can in authorizing trade with Russia
only at the risk of the private trader
and without government guarantees
that might be mistaken for recogni-
tion of the Soviet régime there is a
well founded belief in Europe that
sooner or later the Bolsheviks will
have to be recognized as the rulers.
France and England, as well as the
Scandinavian countries, have been
progressing steadily toward recogni-
tion of the Soviets. In fact on more
than one occasion they have taken the
initiative toward this objective. They
proposed and fostered the exchange
of prisoners; they also put forward
the idea of sending an investigating
commission to Russia to converse with
LENINE and TROTSKY, who were strong
enough with their own people to de-

cline this offer except on terms laid
down by the Soviets.

The British Government already
had formed a plan for trading with
Russia under which England guaran-
teed the traders. The plan, however,
was without the sanction of the So-
viets, and it came to naught. The
scheme was enlarged and extended,
but no further success resulted. It
may be deduced from this that it
would be futile for America to adopt
a similar plan without guarantees.

Bolshevism has lost much of its
initial meaning in Russia, and is
steadily being modified to conform
with present day civilization. But
this has not affected the standing of
LENINE and TROTSKY. They are still
doing business at the old stand.

Neither England nor France has
any liking for Bolshevism. But the
Soviets have under their control sup-
plies needed by Europe. The Soviets
know the power of their position.
They want to dictate their own terms
of peace to the major nations, just as
they have done with some of the
minor ones on their borders.

England and France may accept
the American proposal to continue
importing the Soviet Government, but
only because America is the present
available source of supplies, and be-
cause British and French capital al-
ready in Russia is willing to see if
the United States can help bring Rus-
sia back into the family of nations.

The Tragedy of Dr. Markoe's Death.

Dr. JAMES W. MARKOE was a great
physician and surgeon whose techni-
cal attainments had written his name
conspicuously on the roll of honor of
his profession.

He was a public spirited citizen
whose services, freely given to his
fellow men, brought health and hap-
piness into the lives not only of hun-
dreds who were so fortunate as to
come under his personal ministrations
but of thousands who benefited from
the application of his teachings.

A good man whose only ambition
was to serve his fellow men, to
which he subordinated all opportu-
nities for personal advancement, his
life was cut off in his prime while he
was in the performance of a holy
office—the collection of alms in God's
house, in the course of worship of the
Supreme Being, and while the echoes
of an eloquent sermon on the Chris-
tian's duty of courtesy to strangers
filled the great edifice.

The fatal shot was fired by a
stranger; a stranger who had been
courteously received within the
church, made welcome at its service,
and invited to share fully with the
habitual members of the congregation
the facilities inherited from bygone
generations and maintained by the
faithful of today to give formal ex-
pression to the love and duty man
owes to the Creator.

The tragedy of this meaningless,
purposeless murder is appalling. A
benevolent, wise, strong man is
stricken, a family is bereaved, the
race is robbed of a benefactor, gen-
erations unborn are deprived of in-
estimable advantages; all by an afflicted
creature whose infirmity renders im-
possible his adequate punishment and
whose condition makes a mockery of
the righteous indignation which strug-
gles with grief in the breasts of just
men.

New Orleans gained 49,933 in popu-
lation in the ten years preceding the
latest census, and just it despite the
suppression of its justly celebrated
gin fix.

Suppose the Pennsylvania Railway
Company should conclude—and it has
the same right to do so—that the men
working for it have to suspend the
operation of that great system until the
Interstate Commerce Commission ac-
cused to its demand for increased freight
and passenger rates—Senator THOMAS.

Academic! The owners of the Penn-
sylvania, of any railroad, know that
they have to "suspend" operation," the
Federal Administration, without the
loss of a minute's time, yes, quick-
er, even, than it takes MITCHELL
PALMER to write a soothing statement,
would use its all sufficient right and
power to end the strike. Purely ac-
ademic stuff, Senator.

An American eagle measuring seven
feet one inch from tip of wing to tip
of wing was killed near Woodland, Cal.
recently, and it is planned to preserve
the rare and magnificent specimen
of the great American bird, whose
"talons are like the claws of a lion
and plumage apparently perfect and
undisturbed." It is understood the
great bird is now a supporter of the
League of Nations.

"Potsdam society," says a despatch
from Berlin, "attended the criminal
court to watch the trial of Prince
JOACHIM, and notwithstanding the ex-
traordinary size of the audience a patrol
of security police carefully searched the
spectators for concealed weapons." In
the movies these things are ordered
better; guns are checked at the door.
Berlin may yet take lessons from
Dead Man's Gulch.

An army deserter named ALBERT
McGOWAN who gave out through Minn-
nesota, West Virginia, handbills
bearing the "hoax" of "I guarantee that
the best moonshine whiskey in the
country" has surrendered to the
authorities, and the police do not
know whether he wants protection from
his customers or is getting ready to run
for Congress.

Thoughts on Fish.

The fish in the Aquarium
Have nothing to decide about.
Their lives are tame
And known to fame
And they are never lied about.

The fish in the Aquarium
Have naught to yearn for snappily.
They do not work.
They do not strive,
But draw their rations happily.

The fish in the Aquarium
Find every day a dandy date.
We wonder much
If lives of such
Are not envied by a candidate.

McLACHLAIN WILSON.

THE WHITE COLLAR BOY.

A Chance for Employers to Show Ap-
preciation of His Services.

To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
Your editorial article "The White
Collar Boy" pays a deserved tribute to
him—a high compliment every word of
which is true.

Every other class of labor secures and
enjoys larger pay, gets it by force and
coercion, while the white collar man
suffers every time another class wins
increased wages, because he is com-
pelled to pay more and more for every-
thing he eats and wears. And now,
should not employers see this, and in-
stead of paying clerks as little as pos-
sible recognize what they owe to them
and be glad and willing to give a wage
commensurate to living cost condi-
tions? WHITE COLLAR MAN.

NEW YORK, APRIL 19.

FAIR TAXATION.

To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
Several years experience is not convinc-
ing as to the superiority of the income
tax over the personal property tax.

The latter still seems the more equita-
ble in reaching actual wealth, to which
income is frequently unrelated, and
with the same system and energy either
is collectible.

The income tax, as applied to cus-
tomer income, penalizes industry and
energy. A combination of both taxes
whereby wealth would pay its percent-
age and income and excess profits an-
other percentage would be ideal.

The income tax, however, is here and
is successfully collected. But the Fed-
eral and State laws both violate certain
just principles, and the faults should be
remedied. For example:

The State law allows no deductions
for losses unless of business assets, and
then only to the extent of the profit
made by the business. In consequence
many must pay a tax supposedly on
income, when as matter of fact they
have no income. Thus A has an in-
come from dividends and interest of
\$2,000 and from business of \$10,000. A
fire loss of \$15,000 wipes out all income
for that year, regardless of what prop-
erty was burned. But if it was not
business property he is allowed no de-
duction, and if it was he is allowed
but \$10,000 and must pay the \$5,000
that cannot be called an "income" tax;
it is a tax on dividends merely. The
Federal law is more liberal in allowing
such losses to be deducted.

Both laws are faulty in that A in
1915 may have an actual loss of income
of \$5,000, while in the succeeding year
his income is \$15,000, which obviously
makes his income for the two years
\$10,000, but he is taxed in that succeed-
ing year on the whole \$15,000. Loss in
one year should be deductible from the
profits of the succeeding year to be
just.

Both laws are unjust in their treat-
ment of dependents. Under the Fed-
eral law A, an unmarried man with
no dependents and an income of \$10,000,
is taxed on \$9,000; B, with a wife and
eight children and the same income, is
taxed on \$4,000, or but \$2,000 less than
A. If B's income were divided among
the ten members of his family each
would have \$1,000 income and no tax
would be paid, and that is the only just
way to look at it. It is the way the law
would look at it now if each of the ten
had an independent income of \$1,000.
Wherein is the difference?

This fault penalizes marriage and
large families and is therefore contrary
to public policy in principle.

Until these faults are remedied B should
pay a part of the tax that A should
pay. The allowances for dependents are
absurd.

The solution is simpler: the income of
the family should be divided by the
number of the family and each share
treated as a separate income in rating
the tax. This would reduce the total
tax now collected; but the balance would
be restored by graduated surtaxes on
all incomes over a certain sum of suf-
ficient percentage to bring in the neces-
sary revenue. The large incomes paying
the larger share. And this brings the
conclusion that these superpenalties
should begin at a comparatively low
amount and increase gradually until
after they have passed the reasonable
sum on which one person can support
himself without deprivation; thereafter
they should increase sharply.

Every person in the country with an
income should contribute something,
however small. Formerly this might
have been not worth the expense of col-
lection, but to-day taxpayers are trained
to pay voluntarily, and in a democracy
all should be treated alike and no class
of non-taxpayers created antagonistic to
another class of taxpayers. It is un-
democratic that any man should be
called to the ballot box to vote for an
increase in his neighbor's taxes un-
less in the same degree.

These faults remedied as to in-
dividual incomes and in addition a tax
on actual wealth, both kinds return-
able on the same scale, and the percentage
of tax on each kind rated to produce
the total required for Government needs,
plus systematic economizing in Govern-
ment expenditure, which does not in the
least imply niggardism, we would have
the ideal system. The nation's wealth
should be as graduated and super-
taxed as land.

Can't we have it? Is it because
it would be too perfect? ALEXANDER DODGE.

DENHAM, MASS., APRIL 17.

A Real Estate Opportunity of 1794.

To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
On January 25, 1794, an advertisement
in Josiah Blackwell of Newtown offers
one-half of Blackwell's Island for sale.
This part consisted of fifty-nine acres
with house, two orchards and a num-
ber of quarries of "the best gray stone,
which are an inexhaustible source of
profit." C. L. C. DITMAR.

NEW YORK, APRIL 19.

The City as Ferry Owner.

To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
What has been the record of the Staten
Island ferry since the city took it over?
Has there been a surplus or enough
to pay a dividend or provide a sinking
fund for the amount invested?

I ask the question in connection with
the efforts being made by certain polit-
ical altruists to have everything run by
the city government. J. M.

NEW YORK, APRIL 19.

Their Mistake.

Kicker—The railroad strikers thought
they commanded a key industry.
Bucker—A keyhole can get another key,
but a key can't get another keyhole.

On the Wrong Track.

Henry of Navarra told him to follow
his plume.
"Nothing doing," they answered, "we
have joined an ostrich plume."

NEW YORK, APRIL 19.

**Double Hour Hands on the Swiss
Border.**

To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
Double hour hands have long been in
use on the borders of Germany, Austria
and Switzerland. At railroad stations
there are clocks with a red and a black
hand showing the time in Austria
or Germany or Switzerland.

Really "there's nothing new under
the sun." W. G. STONE.

UTICA, APRIL 19.

Gold Hand for Daylight Saving.

To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
Smith Phillips, agent of the Delaware
and Hudson Railroad at this station,
has carried since April 1 a watch with
a second hand of gold, contrasting
noticeably with the standard time
of blue steel.

GLEN FALLS, APRIL 19.

FARMERS ARE QUITTING.

Agricultural Conditions Which May
Affect the Food Supply.

To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
The agricultural situation is serious, not
alone from the farmers' point of view,
because they can at least keep from
starving, but from the point of view of
the whole people, and one of the remedies
of the situation is a better understand-
ing of the facts.

I do not want to be unduly pessimistic,
but every mail brings to my desk letters
from farmers wondering how they are
going to meet the conditions that seem
to be ahead of them, and I have had
literally hundreds of them